

**REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification has been amended. Claims 1-16 are pending and under consideration.

The only outstanding issues of the Office Action are prior art rejections relying upon US Patent Publication No. 2004/0214006 to Hirayama et al. This reference has a filing date of April 12, 2004. On the other hand, the present application claims priority to Japanese Application No. 2003-113843 filed in Japan on April 18, 2003. The Examiner indicates that he will not rely on the earlier date because a certified translation has not been provided.

Enclosed is a certified English language translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-113843 filed on April 18, 2003.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the prior art rejections in view of the certified translation.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: Mark J. Henry  
Mark J. Henry  
Registration No. 36,162

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501